

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 02021 01 OF 02 051734Z

41

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 SAJ-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 STR-04 CEA-01

COME-00 /072 W

----- 067298

R 051719Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6270

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 02021

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEC, GR, GW

SUBJ: FRG SUPPORTS EARLY GREEK ACCESSION

REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS 981; (B) EC BRUSSELS 1128

1. SUMMARY: FRG FAVORS EARLY ATTAINMENT OF FULL
GREEK MEMBERSHIP IN EC. IT OPPOSES "PRELIMINARY
PHASE" OR ANYTHING WHICH SMACKS OF TWO-TIER MARCH TO
EUROPEAN UNION. POLITICAL NEED TO HELP GREECE
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PAGE 02 BONN 02021 01 OF 02 051734Z

OVERRIDES ECONOMIC COSTS OF ACCESSION, WHICH FONMIN

BELIEVES ARE LIKELY TO BE MANAGEABLE IN TERMS OVERALL EC BUDGET. FONMIN GENSCHER WILL PROBABLY ASK COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TO REAFFIRM SUPPORT OF EARLY GREEK ACCESSION AT FEBRUARY 9-10 MEETING. END SUMMARY.

2. SEVERAL TIMES IN PAST WEEK FRG OFFICIALS HAVE REITERATED SUPPORT FOR EARLY GREEK ACCESSION TO FULL EC MEMBERSHIP. FONMIN GENSCHER AND DUTCH COLLEAGUE VAN DER STOEL AGREED FEBRUARY 2 THAT GREECE SHOULD ENTER EC IN SAME MANNER AS "OTHER THREE COUNTRIES", WITHOUT PRELIMINARY PHASE OR POLITICAL PRECONDITIONS. AFTER FEBRUARY 4 CABINET MEETING, FRG SPOKESMAN BOELLING SAID GENSCHER HAD MADE CLEAR "THAT WE SUPPORT A FULL MEMBERSHIP FOR GREECE WITHOUT ANY INNER RESERVATION AND THAT WE WOULD NOT AGREE WITH ARRANGEMENT WHICH AMOUNTED TO A DISCRIMINATION AGAINST GREECE." BOELLING STRESSED, AS HE HAD ON JANUARY 30, THAT CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT HAD EXPRESSED SAME VIEW DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO ATHENS.

3. TRUMPF, DIRECTOR OF FONMIN OFFICE FOR EC ASSOCIATION AGREEMENTS, DISCUSSED FRG POSITION WITH EMBOFF ON FEBRUARY 4. HE SPELLED OUT STRONG VIEWS HELD

BY FONMIN GENSCHER--AND, HE CLAIMED, BY CHANCELLOR AND MAJORITY IN CABINET--THAT EC MUST MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO KEEP FRAGILE SOUTHERN TIER OF EUROPE--E.G., SPAIN, PORTUGAL, ITALY, GREECE--IN DEMOCRATIC CAMP. SPECIFICALLY, GENSCHER BELIEVES THAT EC MUST HELP KARAMANLIS REGIME BY MOVING TO TALKS ON FULL GREEK ACCESSION WHICH WILL BE CONCLUDED AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE. AS NEW MEMBER, GREECE WOULD HAVE "TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS", PERHAPS OVER FIVE-YEAR PERIOD, ALONG LINES OF THOSE GRANTED LAST THREE MEMBERS AND TAILORED TO ITS PARTICULAR NEEDS. TRUMPF SAID TALKS MIGHT TAKE "SEVERAL YEARS", BUT HE REGARDED THIS ISSUE AS SECONDARY TO NEED FOR UNDILUTED POLITICAL COMMITMENT TO PRESS AHEAD WITH THEM.

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PAGE 03 BONN 02021 01 OF 02 051734Z

4. TRUMPF REGRETTE THAT COMMISSION HAD WORDED ITS OPINION SO INFELICITOUSLY AND THAT RESULTANT CONTROVERSY HAD RAISED SPECTRE OF TWO-TIER APPROACH TO EUROPEAN UNION. (AS ASIDE, HE CLAIMED THAT FRENCH AND ITALIAN COMMISSIONERS HAD SOUGHT LANGUAGE MORE FAVORABLE TO GREECE, WHILE IRISH, UK, AND DANISH COLLEAGUES HAD TAKEN HARD LINE. HE DECLINED FURTHER COMMENT.) COMMISSIONER SPINELLI'S REMARKS RE TWO-

TIER EUROPE, HE THOUGHT, HAD BEEN MOST UNHELPFUL.
ACCORDINGLY, FONMIN BELIEVES THAT COUNCIL MUST
CLARIFY MATTER OF GREEK ACCESSION. TRUMPF ADDED THAT
FRG NOT PREPARING "WRITTEN INITIATIVE" BUT HE IMPLIED
THAT GENSCHER WILL LOBBY HIS COLLEAGUES TO ISSUE
STATEMENT AT FEBRUARY 9-10 MEETING WHICH WILL
REAFFIRM FULL BACKING FOR EARLY TALKS ON GOG
MEMBERSHIP.

5. AS TO COSTS WHICH GREEK ACCESSION WOULD ENTAIL
FOR EC, TRUMPF SAID COMMISSION HAS PREPARED STUDY,
BASED ON ASSUMPTION OF FULL MEMBERSHIP IN 1976, WHICH

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PAGE 01 BONN 02021 02 OF 02 051733Z

42

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 02021

SHOWS ANNUAL NET COSTS TO EC BUDGET OF 150 MILLION U.A. SIMILAR FRG CALCULATION SHOWS ANNUAL NET COSTS OF 200-250 MILLION U.A. TRUMPF QUALIFIED BOTH FIGURES BUT INTERPRETED THEM TO MEAN THAT COSTS OF GREEK MEMBERSHIP WOULD NOT BE EXCESSIVE IN RELATION TO TOTAL EC BUDGET. THOUGH SOME FRG MINISTRIES MIGHT HAVE PROBLEMS WITH FISCAL AND OTHER ASPECTS OF GREEK ACCESSION, TRUMPF CONCLUDED THAT, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 BONN 02021 02 OF 02 051733Z

FOR FRG, POLITICAL IMPERATIVE OF HELPING GREEK REGIME WILL OVERRIDE SUCH CONCERNS.

6. TRUMPF SAID THAT FRG IS WORRIED, HOWEVER, ABOUT FUTURE OF EC-TURKISH ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT, AND IMPACT WHICH EVENTUAL GREEK NEGOTIATIONS WILL HAVE ON IT. CURIOSLY, RECENT FRG SOUNDINGS IN ANKARA HAD FOUND GOT OFFICIALS NONCOMMITTAL AND UNINFORMED ON COMMISSION OPINION RE GREECE. BY CONTRAST, FRG EMBASSY IN ATHENS HAD CONCLUDED THAT STRONG DOMESTIC POLITICAL FACTORS UNDERLAY KARAMANLIS' REACTION, AND HAD COUNSELLED BONN TO TAKE "RELAXED" ATTITUDE.

7. COMMENT: CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S COMMITMENT TO GREEK MEMBERSHIP, HIGHLIGHTED DURING VISIT TO ATHENS, HAS REINFORCED FRG BUREAUCRATIC AND POLITICAL LEANINGS IN SAME DIRECTION. IT APPEARS THAT FONMIN GENSCHER WILL INSIST THAT FEBRUARY 9-10 COUNCIL GIVE SUBSTANTIVE TREATMENT TO GREEK ISSUE AND REAFFIRM COMMITMENT TO EARLY TALKS LEADING TO FULL GOG MEMBERSHIP. END COMMENT.
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